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Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 178018
ORIGIN EB-08

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 (ISO) R

66011
DRAFTED BY:EB/OA/AVP:JSGRAVATT
APPROVED BY:AJWHITE
IO:UNP:DSCHIELE
----------028449 142055Z /44
R 140322Z JUL 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK 8529

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 178018

FOLLOWING TELEGRAM FROM KUALA LUMPUR DATED JULY 11, 1978
SENT SECSTATE WASHDC INFO MONTREAL, GENEVA IS REPEATED TO
YOU: QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L KUALA LUMPUR 6850

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: EAIR, PINS, MY
SUBJ: ANTI HIJACKING CONTACT GROUP

REF : (A) KUALA LUMPUR 4265, (B) KUALA LUMPUR 3341, (C) KUALA
LUMPUR 3197, (D) KUALA LUMPUR 0901, (E) STATE 90969

1. EMBOFFS RECENTLY MET WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF CANADIAN AND BRITISH HICOMS AND PHILIPPINE EMBASSY. CANADIAN HICOM OFFICER DESCRIBED RECENT DISCUSSION WITH TING WENG LIAN, PRINCIPAL ASSISTANT SECRETARY, UN AND COMMONWEALTH AFFAIRS, OF MFA. SHE SAID BOTH MFA AND MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS SUPPORT MALAYSIAN ACCESSION TO ALL THREE CONVENTIONS AND THERE IS NO POLITICAL REASON FOR THE DELAY. HOWEVER, SIGNATURE OF THE MONTREAL AND TOKYO CONVENTIONS NEEDS CABINET APPROVAL AND THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS HAS NOT YET REQUESTED THE CABINET TO DO SO. AS THIS SITUATION HAS
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PAGE 02 STATE 178018

EXISTED FOR ALMOST A YEAR, ACCORDING TO TING, MEMBERS OF THE CONTACT GROUP THOUGHT IT WOULD BE APPROPRIATE TO RAISE THIS ISSUE AT A HIGHER LEVEL.

2. UNFORTUNATELY, PHILIPPINE EMBASSY WAS STILL UNISTRUCTED APPARENTLY BECAUSE OF A REVIEW OF PHILIPPINE CIVIL AVIATION POLICY CURRENTLY BEING UNDERTAKEN AT THE INSTRUCTION OF PRIME

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MINISTER MARCOS. BRITISH HICOM DOES NOT WANT TO PUSH THE MATTER ANY FURTHER AS THEY ARE DEEPLY INVOLVED IN DIFFICULT NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE GOM OVER MAS LANDING RIGHTS IN LONDON AND MALAYSIAN OVERFLIGHT RIGHTS FOR THE CONCORDE. CONSEQUENTLY, THE CONTACT GROUP THOUGHT THE CANADIANS SHOULD CALL ON THE SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE MFA AND WE SHOULD CALL ON THE SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS. MFA CALL WILL PROBABLY BE MADE BY CANADIAN HICOMM DURING HIS FAREWELL CALLS OVER THE NEXT THREE WEEKS. MILLER UNQUOTE CHRISTOPHER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FOREIGN POLICY POSITION, MEETINGS, ANTIHIJACKING PROCEDURES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 14 jul 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978STATE178018
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: EB/OA/AVP:JSGRAVATT
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780289-0837
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780758/aaaabxbb.tel
Line Count: 71
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: fbe40773-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN EB
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 KUALA LUMPUR 4265, 78 KUALA LUMPUR 3341
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 30 jun 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2001933
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ANTI HIJACKING CONTACT GROUP
TAGS: EAIR, PINS, MY
To: USUN NEW YORK
Type: TE
vdkvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/fbe40773-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
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US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014